

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVID TWA

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, and Congressman ERIC SWALWELL to recognize the service of an esteemed leader in Contra Costa County, David Twa.

David began his career as a public servant in Minnesota where he served as a county manager and county attorney. With significant experience under his belt, David moved to California and was appointed as the Contra Costa County Administrator in 2008. In this role, David has managed 24 departments, agencies, and special districts; over 10,000 employees; and a multibillion-dollar budget.

During his tenure as County Administrator, David worked to implement the County's goals and improve the lives of its residents. One of David's many accomplishments is helping the County achieve a AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's in 2013. David's legacy extends beyond his job description. He was dedicated to career development for County staff and worked to create leadership opportunities for employees, including helping establish the Contra Costa Local Government Leadership Academy in 2014. Throughout his many years with Contra Costa County, David has inspired his colleagues and peers to continue working to improve our community. In 2018, David won the Distinguished Service Award from the California Association of County Executives, a testament to his career and service.

David is known by his colleagues as a dedicated and respected leader. Please join me and Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, and Congressman ERIC SWALWELL in thanking David for his service to our County and wishing him the best in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE MARK MYERS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life of former City of Weston Commissioner, Mark Myers.

I was heartbroken to learn of his passing and join my community in celebrating his life. Commissioner Myers was one of the original founders of my hometown of Weston, FL, serving on the first City Commission in 1997. In November 1991, Mr. Myers was elected to serve as Treasurer on the Board of Super-

visors, the panel that helped to incorporate the City of Weston in 1996. His life is part of the fabric of our South Florida history, and we are grateful for his service.

Mark always emphasized supporting our community's young people as well as improving access to the arts. He was instrumental in expanding cultural and economic opportunities for a new community and even helped design the City of Weston seal. Mr. Myers was an avid art collector and advocate supporting numerous organizations whose work helped improve our surroundings.

Commissioner Myers was a graduate of Cornell University and also served our nation with distinction as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

I join Mark's children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and my friends and neighbors in mourning the loss of an incredible advocate, visionary, and devoted public servant. May his memory be a blessing.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DOCK GABBERT

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dock Gabbert who passed away on December 30. Dock dedicated his life to serving the people of Mississippi and his legacy will be long remembered.

Born on July 30, 1942 in Banner, MS to Dock and Rena Gabbert, Dock went on to graduate from Bruce High School. In 1960, he married Gloria Kay Ramage and spent 25 years with Willis Engineering. He also served in the Mississippi Army National Guard. Dock was known for his deep love for the outdoors. He went on hunting trips with friends that took him across the country. He could often be found fishing or working in his yard. His love for his community was at the forefront of all he did.

Dock began his career in public service in 1967 on the Derma Board of Alderman. In 1969, he was elected mayor of Derma, where he ultimately served 51 years making him Mississippi's longest serving mayor. He won 14 elections, one by only a two-vote margin. He took pride in his contributions to the city infrastructure and his part in making Denna an enjoyable city to live in. His tenure allowed continuity in local projects and his impact on the quality of life in Derma will endure.

Dock Gabbert was an outstanding Mississippian who exemplified a commitment to public service. He dedicated his life to making life better for his community. I am grateful for men like Dock who so humbly served our great state, and my deepest condolences are with those who loved him.

STEM OPPORTUNITIES ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to be joined by Ranking Member LUCAS in introducing the STEM Opportunities Act.

The need for full engagement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by women and other underrepresented groups goes beyond enabling individuals to fulfill their dreams of becoming a scientist. As the global competition in science and technology continues to intensify, the lack of diversity in the U.S. STEM workforce creates a significant drag on our own capacity to innovate. Our future prosperity depends on what we do now to nurture the STEM talent that will be necessary to keep pace with our competitors and deliver benefits to all Americans.

Study after study has shown that the underrepresentation of women, and racial and ethnic minorities is not attributable to a lack of interest or talent. Institutional and cultural barriers, including discrimination, harassment, unconscious bias in hiring and promotion, limited access to the internet, poor mentoring, and limited support networks serve to disadvantage, marginalize, and push talented individuals at all education and career levels to abandon their interest in pursuing STEM careers. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 crisis has only exacerbated these challenges.

The goal of the STEM Opportunities Act is to develop and implement evidence-based policies to promote the advancement of women, minorities, and other groups underrepresented in STEM studies and research careers. This bill is focused on identifying and lowering barriers for those who have already chosen a STEM path. First, so that we better understand the nature and scope of the challenges, the STEM Opportunities Act requires more comprehensive demographic data collection on the recipients of federal research awards and on STEM faculty at U.S. universities. These data would be available to researchers to study the participation and trajectories of women and underrepresented minorities in STEM so that policy makers can design more effective policies and practices to reduce barriers.

Next, this bill requires the development of consistent federal policies, such as no-cost award extensions, for recipients of federal research awards who have caregiving responsibilities, including care for a newborn or newly adopted child and care for a sick family member. The bill also requires consistent federal guidance to grant reviewers and program officers on best practices to minimize the effects of implicit bias in the review of federal research grants. It requires OSTP to develop guidance for universities and Federal laboratories to aid them in identifying any cultural

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